

# The Urban District of Sandbach



## REPORT on the HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT for the year ended 31st December 1972

*Medical Officer of Health*

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To the Chairman and Members  
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1972 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

This will be the last occasion on which I shall be engaged in preparing this report, as with the commencement of the new Local Government Act on 1st April 1974 your Authority will be merged with the larger District under the reformed Local Government Act. It is not without a great deal of sadness that I have to mention this fact as the office of Medical Officer of Health will be abolished, an office, I might say, which has been in existence for over 130 years and during this period has helped to make a profound change in the social and medical aspects of our people. This office has been in existence for so long that it is recognised for what it is by almost every section of the Public and whenever any crisis or problem in public health or preventive medicine arises inevitably your Authority and the people know where to turn for medical advice and help.

There will be no replacement as such by a Medical Officer employed directly by the new District as all the health functions previously carried out by County Councils and County District Councils will pass under the aegis of the Regional and Area Health Authorities. However, in the field of environmental health the new District Councils will require medical advice and it is proposed to furnish this by the creation of a new appointment, namely, that of Community Physician. It is expected that under the new Act a District Community Physician will have a relationship with the Local Government District Councils to be available to give advice to not only the Environmental Health Officer but to others of the Chief Officers so requiring it. This relationship I expect will be formalised so that it is known to whom a District Council may turn and the Community Physician will also be aware of his responsibilities.

I think it will help the Council if I describe briefly what Community Medicine is all about so that the duties of the Community Physician can be clearly understood.

Community Medicine is that branch of Medicine which deals with populations or groups rather than with individual patients. In the context of the national system of medical care, it comprises those Doctors who try to measure accurately the needs of the population



both sick and well. It requires to bring to this study special knowledge of the principles of epidemiology, of the organisation and evaluation of medical care systems, of the medical aspects of the administration of health services and of the techniques of health education and rehabilitation which are comprised within the field of social and preventive medicine. Community Medicine thus brings together within the one discipline those who are presently engaged in the practice of public health, in the administration of the health services whether in Hospital, Local Authority or Central Government, in relevant research and those responsible for undergraduate and post graduate education in the University Department of Social Medicine.

Those Medical Officers who will be responsible for this branch of the service will be known as Community Physicians and they will be placed at Area and District level. Indeed there will be a Community Physician in the District Management Team of the Area Health Authority.

There are some people who feel that this National Health Service Reorganisation and even Local Government Reorganisation is unnecessary and will be expensive. Nevertheless these Acts are on the Statute Book and will have to be effectively and efficiently carried out. The first duty in every instance is towards the members of the public to see that they get a better service either from the District Councils or from the Health Authorities. Every effort must be made to forget the parochialism of the past in order that the future may be reasonably bright.

As far as my own personal position is concerned I shall be retiring on age limit in March 1974 and will not, therefore, be available to participate in the forthcoming Reorganisation. I would, therefore, like to take this final opportunity of thanking all my colleagues who at present work for your Council for the very many happy years of collaboration and goodwill I have received from them at all times. Also may I take this further opportunity of wishing the new District Council well in its new and important task and may it always be borne in mind that the whole object of both exercises, whether in Local Government or Health, is to try and give a better service to the ratepayer and the taxpayer.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1971

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population ... 13,670 (13,290)

### Births

#### Live Births—

		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate ...	...	254	(253)	120	(135)	134	(118)
Illegitimate ...	...	9	(6)	4	(3)	5	(3)
Still Births—							
Legitimate ...	...	3	(4)	1	(4)	2	(-)
Illegitimate ...	...	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1972 ...						16.9	(19.3)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population ...						14.8	(16.0)
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ...						11.0	(15.0)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births ...						12.0	(12.0)
Still birth rate per 1000 total population ...						0.2	(0.3)

### Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate ...	...	2	(5)	1	(5)	1	(-)
Illegitimate ...	...	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 births ...						8.0	(19.0)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales ...						17.0	(18.0)
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...						8.0	(20.0)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ...						-	(-)

### Deaths

		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Deaths (all ages) ...	...	134	(144)	65	(81)	69	(63)
Death rate per 1000 estimated average population ...						12.0	(12.9)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population ...						12.1	(11.6)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :

CAUSE	Total	Male	Female
Cholera ... ..	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever ... ..	-	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery and amoebiasis ... ..	-	-	-
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases ... ..	2	-	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	-	-	-
Late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	-	-	-
Other tuberculosis ... ..	-	-	-
Plague ... ..	-	-	-
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-	-
Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever ... ..	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection ... ..	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	-	-	-
Smallpox ... ..	-	-	-
Measles ... ..	-	-	-
Typhus and other rickettsioses ... ..	-	-	-
Malaria ... ..	-	-	-
Syphilis and its sequelae ... ..	-	-	-
All other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	4	2	2
Malignant neoplasms, other ... ..	6	3	3
Malignant neoplasm of Buccal Cavity and Pharynx ... ..	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of Oesophagus ... ..	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of Stomach ... ..	5	3	2
Malignant neoplasm of Intestine ... ..	4	3	1
Malignant neoplasm of Larynx ... ..	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm of Lung Bronchus ... ..	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm of Breast ... ..	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm of Uterus ... ..	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm of Prostate ... ..	1	1	-
Leukaemia ... ..	3	1	2
Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature ... ..	-	-	-
Diabetes mellitus ... ..	1	1	-
Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency ... ..	-	-	-
Anaemias ... ..	1	-	1
Meningitis ... ..	-	-	-
Multiple Sclerosis ... ..	1	-	1
Active rheumatic fever ... ..	-	-	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ... ..	-	-	-
Hypertensive disease ... ..	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease ... ..	31	17	14
Other forms of heart disease ... ..	6	3	3
Cerebrovascular disease ... ..	29	14	15



Other diseases of circulatory system ... ..	5	1	4
Influenza ... ..	1	1	-
Pneumonia ... ..	7	4	3
Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma ... ..	5	4	1
Peptic ulcer ... ..	-	-	-
Appendicitis ... ..	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ... ..	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	-	-	-
Abortion ... ..	-	-	-
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium ... ..	-	-	-
Congenital anomalies ... ..	-	-	-
Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions ... ..	1	1	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality ... ..	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions ... ..	6	1	5
All other diseases ... ..	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	-	-	-
All other accidents ... ..	-	-	-
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ... ..	2	2	-
All other external causes ... ..	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>69</b>

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH FOR THE AREA

### Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Mrs. E. O. Rae  
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach  
Telephone : Sandbach 2970

Mrs. J. Hudson  
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach  
Telephone : Sandbach 2970

## Statistics

Child Health Clinic	Attendances				Born 1968-70		Total	No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor	Av. attend'ne per Clinic
	Born 1972 1st	Subs	Born 1971 1st	Subs	1st	Subs					
Sandbach	261	883	189	710	113	82	2238	89	318	3.5	25.1

### Special Clinics for Under 5

					New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Opthalmic Clinic	...	...	...		28 (10)	95 (96)	30 (32)	3.1 (3.0)
E.N.T. Clinic	...	...	...	...	13 (12)	6 (5)	8 (11)	2.3 (1.5)

### Special Clinics for School Children

					New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Opthalmic Clinic	...	...	...		56 (68)	665 (703)	30 (32)	22.1 (21.9)
E.N.T. Clinic	...	...	...	...	39 (38)	95 (87)	8 (11)	11.8 (11.3)

### Preparation Class

					New Cases	Re-Examination	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Preparation Class	...	...	...		76 (78)	698 (652)	47 (48)	14.8 (13.5)

### Welfare Foods Sold - 1972

Distribution Centre	National Dried Milk		A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice	A.D.C. Drops
	Full Cream	Half Cream				
Clinic Centre, Sandbach	34 (89)	— (—)	129 (156)	— (49)	143 (3741)	311 (370)



Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Hoyle, I. (Mrs.)	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 2852
(Home Nursing Duties)		
Clay, R. (Mrs.)	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 2256
(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)		
Hibbert, C. (Mrs.)	11 Plant Lane, Elton	Sandbach 2556
Howard, A. (Mrs.)	17 Queen's Drive, Sandbach	Sandbach 3487
(Part-time - Home Nursing Duties)		

It is satisfactory to record that the work of our Home Nurses and Midwives has gone on at the same high standard and without a single complaint.

Once again numerous items of equipment have been loaned out in order to assist with the nursing of cases in their own homes.

Air Beds	Commodes	Mattresses
Air Cushions	Crutches	Ripple Bed
Air Rings	Eneuresis Blankets	Rubber Sheets
Back Rests	Feeding Cups	Urine Bottles
Beds	Handy Spring Pole	Wheel Chairs
Bed Cradles	Hoist	
Bed Pans	Mackintosh Sheets	

We are constantly enlarging and improving our equipment and we are open to receive suggestions in all cases where special items of equipment are needed.

Births

Once again it is satisfactory to report that with 263 births notified there have been no maternal deaths.

Cervical Cytology - Sandbach

No. of Sessions	No. of Attendances	Negative (a)	Result of Examination	
			For Investigation (b)	No. in (b) found Positive
38	723	670	53	—

Meals on Wheels

1972 was the fourteenth year of the service and it enables the W.R.V.S. to keep a wonderful contact between themselves and the recipients.

The drivers and aides who work to a rota do many little kindnesses and give help when it is needed.

From January to the end of December, 5,149 meals were delivered which is an increase on last year.

# Vaccination and Immunisation

## Completed Primary Courses - Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	1972	Year of Birth			1968-65	Others Under 16	Total	
		1971	1970	1969			At Clinics	By G.P.'s
Quadruple ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Triple (D/W.C./T)	28	854	343	15	10	10	461	799
Diph./Whooping C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diph./Tetanus ...	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	62	—	—
Polio-Salk ... ..	—	1	2	—	—	—	3	—
Polio-Sabin ... ..	27	853	342	15	9	5	460	791
Measles ... ..	—	551	495	68	64	16	435	759
German Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	538	530	8

## Reinforcing Doses - Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	1972	Year of Birth			1968-65	Others Under 16	Total	
		1971	1970	1969			At Clinics	By G.P.'s
Quadruple ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Triple (D/W.C./T)	—	5	12	3	1075	39	450	684
Diph./Whooping C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diph./Tetanus ...	—	—	—	—	79	313	170	222
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	539	438	101
Polio-Salk ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Sabin ... ..	—	—	—	1	74	787	610	252

# Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1972 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1963.

## **Public Health Laboratory Service**

We have continued to use the new laboratory at Chester and I should like to pay tribute once again to the services given and the help and advice from the Pathologist in charge.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

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### **Water Supply**

Sandbach Urban District is supplied with River Dee water from Hurleston Treatment Works.

Regular bacteriological samples are taken and the water has been generally satisfactory, both in quantity and quality.

Extension of mains have been carried out to serve new housing development and in some cases to improve existing supplies.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

In connection with the rebuilding of the Hind Heath Sewage Disposal Works, the diversion of the River Wheelock has been completed with the exception of some minor works of fencing. Contract documents for the main scheme are being prepared by the Council's Consultants and it is hoped that a physical start on this work will be made in May 1973.

### **Housing**

No Council housing was carried out during the year, but 194 houses were completed by private enterprise.

## **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

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The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year :



Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1972

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION									Total	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under										
	1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15.24	25+		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	6	-
Measles	4	13	7	5	10	38	2	-	3	82	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-

Notifications — 1963 to 1972

	1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971		1972	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4													1							
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34	1																			
35-44					1															
45-54																	1			
55-64					1															
65 and Over															1					
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24											1				1					
25-34																				
35-44								2												
45-54																				
55-64			1																	
65 and over																				
TOTAL	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-

## Deaths — 1963 to 1972

	1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971		1972	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64					1															
65 and over			1																	
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over																				
TOTAL	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Cases on Register at 31st December 1972

	Up to 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary ...	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	2	9
Female Pulmonary ...	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	2	7
Male Non-Pulmonary ...	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	2	-	6
Female Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	4

The following sections of this report have been contributed by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

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The most pleasing item in the following portion of the report is that concerning refuse collection. In 24 years of contributing to this annual report this is the first occasion when it has been possible to state that the whole District has been served by a weekly collection of refuse throughout the year. It is particularly satisfying that this position has been attained prior to the setting up of the new Local Authorities.

The practical work in connection with Local Government Re-organisation commenced in the latter half of the year when Working Parties were formed by the constituent Authorities of the proposed new District Council. The Chief Public Health Inspector became involved in a considerable amount of additional work and this is reflected to some extent in the reduced number of inspections recorded below.

The undermentioned statistics relate to the work of the Public Health Department, but it needs to be pointed out that the Chief Public Health Inspector is also the Housing Manager and many additional inspections and visits are made in connection with Council house management and maintenance. The two services, Public Health and Housing, have now been administered jointly for some eleven years and it is felt that this arrangement has worked very successfully from all points of view.

**Public Health Inspection**

Number of Inspections and Visits during 1972	... ..	3282
Number of Informal Notices served during 1972	... ..	79
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1972		81
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/72	... ..	3
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1972	... ..	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1972		—
Number of Court Proceedings during 1972	... ..	—

**PUBLIC CLEANSING**

**Refuse Collection**

A weekly collection of refuse from all premises was maintained throughout the year. This satisfactory position was basically due to the efforts of a good set of employees who were encouraged by the terms of an incentive bonus scheme. The fact that the collection was



carried out with the use of two comparatively new compression-type vehicles was also of great assistance, as this meant that there was very little hold-up on account of transport difficulties.

The plastic bin-liner scheme was very gradually extended so that by the end of the year 376 premises were thus served. It is planned to expand this scheme on a much larger scale in the near future and to continue this expansion so that the whole of the present Urban District area is dealt with by the bin-liner method within four years. The other constituent Authorities of the proposed new District Council are making similar plans.

### **Refuse Disposal**

All refuse collected throughout the year has been taken to the Alsager U.D.C. pulverisation plant: this system has proved very acceptable and successful.

The Moss Lane tip which was used by the Council up to October 1971 has been sold to the firm which operates an adjacent industrial tip.

### **Civic Amenities Act 1967**

A locked compound at Newall Avenue Depot is available for persons wishing to dispose of old cars, and good use has been made of this facility. It did not become necessary on any occasion during 1972 for the Council to invoke the provisions of the legislation by removing an abandoned vehicle, although the removal of a number of vehicles was secured by means of good co-operation from the police authority.

A free collection service is operated for bulky household items and bagged garden rubbish. These special collections are carried out on Thursday morning each week and householders are increasingly taking advantage of the scheme. Special collections of this nature were made from 317 premises during the year. Other Sandbach residents who wish to make their own arrangements for removing substantial quantities of rubbish, other than builders' debris, are allowed facilities for disposal at Alsager pulverisation plant.

### **Supply of Dustbins**

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request and 267 properties were supplied in this way.

### **Conservancy**

Fortunately, very few properties in the Urban District are un-sewered. The pail closets at eight houses situated around the fringe of the area are emptied weekly by the Congleton Rural District

Council at an agreed annual charge. In addition, it is found very convenient to make use of this service in connection with the caravans attached to the amusement fairs which visit Sandbach Commons each year.

**Public Conveniences**

The Department is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the two sets of public conveniences adjoining the Market Hall and at the entrance to Sandbach Park.

Whilst the general use of the conveniences is still far from exemplary, it is possible to report for the second successive year that there has been less damage and abuse of the facilities than in former years.

The experiment of leaving one unlocked compartment in each set of conveniences proved reasonably successful and the system has been continued.

The public conveniences were examined in relation to the Disabled Persons Act 1970 but it was felt that the existing structures would not lend themselves to adaptation. It was agreed, however, that the new conveniences planned for the town centre would be designed so as to facilitate their use by disabled persons.

**HOUSING**

**Unfit Houses**

(a) Individual Houses

Number of Demolition Orders made ... ..	-
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	-
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action ... ..	-
Number of Local Authority-owned houses demolished	-
Number of unfit houses closed under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957 ... ..	1
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners ... ..	3

(b) Clearance Areas

Number of Areas declared during the year ... ..	-
Number of Orders made during the year ... ..	-
Number of houses demolished ... ..	-

(c) Rehousing from Unfit Houses

Number of families rehoused ... ..	5
Number of persons rehoused ... ..	13

(d) Unfit Houses purchased by Agreement ... .. -

In an effort to made some progress with the unfit houses in Chapel Street during the hiatus which has arisen in connection with plans



for the redevelopment of this area, four occupiers were rehoused by the Council : a Closing Order was made in respect of the one unfit house and the other three were closed in accordance with undertakings given by the owners. In addition, in pursuance of demolition orders two families were rehoused from individual unfit houses in other parts of the District.

The recent escalation in the purchase price of private houses militates against the elimination of old cottage properties even though they can be legally classified as unfit, for these small properties are becoming the only ones available for letting or for purchasing at a price which is within the reach of many young couples.

The following information was submitted in response to Department of the Environment Circular No. 50/72 :

**Estimates of Conditions of Housing Stock in mid-1972**

<b>Unfit Dwellings</b>	<i>Number of dwellings</i>	
	<i>Owned by Local Authority</i>	<i>Other Ownership</i>
1—In areas already declared under Part III Housing Act 1957 ... ..	—	—
2—In other areas to be declared under Part III Housing Act 1957 ... ..	3	148
3—Not in Part III areas ... ..	—	8
4—Total of unfit dwellings ... ..	3	156
<b>Dwellings not unfit</b>		
5—Up to 12-point standard ... ..	717	3340
6—Capable of improvement to 12-point standard ... ..	116	307
7—Not capable of improvement to 12-point standard ... ..	1	364
Total dwellings in the area ... ..	837	4167

A target period of seven years was set for the elimination of the unfit dwellings listed, and a similar period was envisaged for securing the improvement of those houses indicated for such action.

**House Improvement**

The Council have not yet established any Improvement Areas, but the policy of encouraging and persuading owners of grouped properties to improve their individual houses and thus securing the standard throughout these small unofficial areas is now producing good results.



<b>"Discretionary" Grants</b>				<i>Owner/Occupier</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
Applications received during 1972	...	...		5	1
Applications approved during 1972	...	...		4	1
Applications not approved during 1972	...	...		1	-
Dwellings improved during 1972	...	...		3	-
Amount paid in grants during 1972	...	...		£1,800	
Average grant per house	...	...	...	£600	

The disapproved application concerned a modern house where the owner proposed to construct additional bedroom accommodation.

<b>Standard Grants</b>				<i>Owner/Occupier</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
Applications received during 1972	...	...		24	10
Applications approved during 1972	...	...		24	10
Applications not approved during 1972	...	...		-	-
Dwellings improved during 1972	...	...		24	3
Amount paid in grants during 1972	...	...		£4,779	
Average grant per house	...	...	...	£177	

#### Amenities provided

(a) Fixed bath	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
(b) Shower	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
(c) Wash-hand basin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(d) Hot water supply (to any fittings)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
(e) Water closet (1) within dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
(2) accessible from dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
(f) Sink	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

In March 1973 the Urban District was given Intermediate Area status, the effect being to increase the basis of all Improvement Grants from 50% to 75% of approved costs. This undoubtedly stimulated more enthusiasm on the part of prospective or hesitant applicants and in the latter part of the year many more enquiries were being made.

Near the end of the year the Council authorised the preparation of a scheme for the modernisation of all pre-1945 Council houses.

#### Qualification Certificates

Applications received during 1972	...	...	...	...	...	10
Qualification Certificates granted during 1972	...	...	...	...	...	14
Certificates of Prov. Approval granted during 1972	...	...	...	...	...	5
Qualification Certificates refused during 1972	...	...	...	...	...	2

When enquiries concerning Qualification Certificates are made by landlords it is the practice of the Health Inspectors to visit the property concerned and offer advice as to any repairs required so that the defects can be remedied before any official steps are taken, thus reducing the possibility of an abortive application.

**Rehousing**

The following is a statement of the latest position with regard to the Register of Applicants for tenancies of Council houses and flats :

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year ... ..	113
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years ... ..	27
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years ... ..	12
Applicants on Waiting List over 3 years ... ..	6
<hr/>	
Total number of “live” applicants on current register ...	158
<hr/>	

33 applicants from the general waiting list were rehoused during 1972, together with five families from “condemned” houses.

In addition, there are 137 applicants on the bungalow waiting list, three cases having been accommodated during the year. Two single persons were provided with accommodation in Lightley Court Old People’s Flatlets, leaving 41 cases on the flatlets waiting list at the end of the year.

Two obvious needs remain - (a) the provision of further bungalows for aged and infirm persons : this would reduce the growing waiting list of applicants and would also assist in the means of rehousing suitable cases from unfit properties ; (b) the provision of additional alternative accommodation to enable the clearance of unfit houses to be pursued on a larger scale.

**Moveable Dwellings**

The 10-year licence in respect of a site for 25 residential caravans at Wheelock remained in force during 1972, and this site continues to be maintained at a high standard. Several minor infringements arose during the year but these were remedied without recourse to formal action.

One short-term licence in respect of an individual caravan was continued for a further period.

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**FOOD**

**Slaughtering and Meat Inspection**

The one licensed slaughterhouse in the Urban District has been continued in use throughout the year. A new tenant took over in April ; from then onwards the throughput declined and by the end of the year there was very little activity. Nevertheless, the conduct of the business continued to be satisfactory and the premises were maintained to a good standard.

The Council again reviewed the hours of slaughtering in relation to the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966 and made certain curtailments to correspond with times operative in the areas



of neighbouring Authorities, in particular eliminating Sunday slaughtering. A need for the adjustment of Meat Inspection charges also became apparent when comparison was made with the other constituent Authorities of the proposed new District Council and these charges were due to be reviewed in the early part of 1973.

### Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and						
Inspected ... ..	21	760	673	137	13	1604
(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1972)						
<i>CONDEMNATIONS</i>						
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	2	61	9	2	2	76
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	9	624	5	3	2	643
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	54%	90%	2%	4%	31%	44%
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Analysis in lb. of Condemned Meat

	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork
Parasites and Cysts ... ..	5816	-	6	4
Angioma ... ..	948	-	-	-
Dropsy ... ..	18891	-	148	-
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ...	1047	10	-	-
Septicaemia ... ..	508	670	-	-
Pericarditis ... ..	88	-	-	-
Abscesses ... ..	968	4	-	82
Emaciation ... ..	-	-	-	162
Pyaemia ... ..	-	42	-	-
Immaturity ... ..	-	46	-	-
Moribund ... ..	741	-	-	-
Gangrene ... ..	446	-	-	-
Miscellaneous and Injury ...	7158	60	-	74
TOTAL	36611	832	154	322



The figures below show the average beef condemnations in recent years, but the quality of cattle passing through Sandbach slaughterhouse varies from time to time to such an extent that it is not possible to relate these figures to any obvious pattern. However, the high percentage of beasts affected in some degree with disease and the amount of beef shown as condemned by reason of “dropsy” will give some indication of the class of animal which is commonly involved.

### Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

		<i>All Diseases</i>		<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1969	...	55 lb	...	—
1970	...	30 lb	...	—
1971	...	45 lb	...	—
1972	...	46 lb	...	—

### Slaughter of Animals Act 1968

Three applications for licences to slaughter animals were approved.

### Poultry Processing Establishments

There are no Poultry Processing Establishments in the Urban District.

### Food Hygiene

Regular inspections of food premises have been made throughout the year and many minor improvements have been carried out in consequence.

There is good co-operation with the Council’s Engineer and Surveyor whereby all plans of food premises submitted to him are passed to the Health Department for comment.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grocers and General	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supermarkets	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

In addition, 55 stalls in the Council's weekly market are hired for the sale of a variety of foods, but unwrapped food other than fruit and vegetables is not permitted in the open-air section of the market.

## Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at shop premises :

Raw Meat	...	...	...	...	...	36 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	719 lbs
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	735 lbs
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs
Frozen Foods	...	...	...	...	...	1170 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
TOTAL						2668 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs

A number of instances of alleged unfit food were brought to the attention of the Health Inspectors during the year. In the majority of cases the foods were found to be wholesome, but it is interesting to note that members of the public are becoming increasingly concerned over the appearance and quality of the food they purchase. In the following cases, after consideration by the Health Committee, severe warnings were issued to the firms concerned :

- A loaf of bread containing part of a wasp ;
- A loaf of bread containing some wall plaster ;
- Outdated prepacked bacon.

## Milk

Dealers' Licences are issued by the County Council whose staff regularly take samples of the milk for examination. At the end of 1972 there was only one dairy herd in the District from which milk was normally retailed, and in this instance a Regulation 20 notice was in operation. No samples from this herd were taken during the year for Brucella examination.

## Ice Cream

47 premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of ice cream. No ice cream is known to be manufactured in the district.

During the summer months samples of unwrapped ice cream were taken from various selling-points and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Chester for bacteriological examination. The samples are categorised by the laboratory according to hygienic standard in

grade 1 (good), 2, 3 and 4. The results are indicated below in the chronological sequence in which the samples were taken.

Restaurant A : 2, 1.

Restaurant B : 2, 1.

Shop (soft ice cream) : 3, 2, 3, 1, 1.

Vehicle A : 2, 3, 1, 2, 2.

Vehicle B : 3, 3, 1.

Vehicle C (soft ice cream) : 3, 1, 1.

### **Food Hawkers**

Twelve persons are registered as Hawkers of Food under the Cheshire County Council Act 1953.

### **The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963**

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Urban District.

### **Other Registered Premises**

Eight premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and eight premises are registered for fish frying.

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Rodent Control**

A trained Rodent Operator, working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors, spends approximately 20 hours per week on these duties.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	...	...	...	...	117
Agricultural Properties	...	...	...	...	13
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	163
Local Authority Undertakings	...	...	...	...	15
TOTAL					<hr/> 308 <hr/>

By means of annual contracts, the Council deals with eight commercial and two agricultural properties. Under this system, early reports made by the occupiers and periodical inspections by the Operator enable the premises to be dealt with before major infestations arise.

The sewers throughout the district are tested annually and treated for rat infestation where necessary, but the degree of infestation in 1972 was slight.



Warfarin is mostly used as the basis of treatment for rodents and there is no evidence in this area of Warfarin-resistance such as has been encountered in some parts of the country.

### Other Pests

The advice and assistance of the Health Department have been made available in many cases of infestations of various kinds, ants and wasps being the principal causes of concern.

Feral pigeons in the town centre became an increasing problem. A pigeon eradication specialist from Manchester was engaged in 1971 but his efforts were too infrequent to prove successful, so the Additional Public Health Inspector applied himself to the situation. As a result some 60 pigeons were eliminated, and two churches which were the main buildings affected were freed from these pests.

### Pet Animals Act 1951

There is one licensed pet shop in the Urban District.

### Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

There are no animal boarding establishments in the Urban District.

### Atmospheric Pollution

The Council have not yet established any Smoke Control Areas. During 1972 the Council called for the preparation of a preliminary programme with estimated costs, but little progress had been made by the end of the year due to the pressure of other work.

Three instances of smoke nuisance were recorded during the year, but in each case abatement was secured and steps taken to prevent a recurrence without recourse to statutory action.

### Noise Abatement

39 complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year and can be categorised as follows :

		Industrial Premises	Domestic Premises	Open-air Operations
Complaints received	...	19	9	11
Premises involved	... ..	2	4	-
Nuisances confirmed	...	8	1	6
Remedied informally	...	8	1	6
Statutory action	... ..	-	-	-

The complaints regarding domestic premises have been found on investigation to be mainly frivolous or malicious.

It is disturbing in this enlightened age to find statutory undertakers still using road-breaking equipment without any means of noise suppression. If warnings to the offenders have no lasting effect it will be necessary to take more severe action.

Itinerant ice-cream vendors are found to have little or no knowledge of noise legislation and the employers in this area have been notified as to the limited hours during which chimes on ice cream vans may be operated. On a complaint from the Health Department one employer discharged a salesman who was a persistent offender.

### Other Public Health Nuisances

(a) The Reports of the last two years have referred to nuisance caused by unpleasant fumes from a bone-calcining plant and the elimination of the nuisance after prolonged efforts. Unfortunately, the fruits of this success were short-lived, for in November 1972 the firm ceased to operate from these premises.

(b) Last year's Report also mentioned frequent complaints of nuisance arising from a concrete works. There has been a considerable amount of investigation and consultation with the firm concerning the allegations of dust and noise, and a number of plant improvements have been carried out. By the end of 1972 it was generally accepted that there was less cause for complaint, and other improvements which were contemplated within the works would reduce still further the tendency to create nuisance.

## PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

#### Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving general insp. during year
Offices ... ..	5	41	15
Retail Shops ... ..	2	49	31
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	-	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ... ..	-	10	8
Fuel storage depots ... ..	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	101	55

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act ... .. 109

## Analysis of Contraventions

		<i>No. of Contraventions found</i>
Section 4	Cleanliness ... ..	1
Section 6	Temperature ... ..	1
Section 9	Sanitary conveniences ... ..	2
Section 16	Floors, passages and stairs ... ..	1
Section 24	First Aid ... ..	3
Section 50	Information for employees ... ..	6
TOTAL		14

It did not become necessary to institute any statutory action during 1972.

No applications were received for exemption from the provisions of the Act.

Four accidents were reported during the year and the circumstances were investigated in each instance. Three of the cases were found to be of a trivial nature. In the fourth case which involved a fractured ankle the employers were required to carry out certain work to prevent the possibility of a recurrence.

## Factories Act 1961

### Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	10	4	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities...	61	9	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	6	6	-	-
TOTAL	77	19	-	-

No defects were recorded in connection with the above inspections.

Outworkers - Nil.





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